

Renewal | Isaiah 40:27-31

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Comfort Begins With Identity

Comfort Puts Reality on The Table

- a. "Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?" (Galatians 4:8-9)
- b. "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- c. "If our hearts are not deeply moved by a conviction of our weakness, we cannot receive seasonable assistance from God." (John Calvin)
- d. "God's glory is not just that he has power, but that he loves to use it to help those who need it. God is not too great to care, he's too great not to care." (Drew Hunter)

Comfort Produces Renewal

- a. Waiting on the Lord
 - i. "The sky is not always clear; the sea is not always at flood; the year is not always at summer; the sun is not always in the zenith; the moon is not always at her full; the tree is not always adorned with fruit; the vineyard does not always flow with wine; roses do not always blush, nor lilies always bloom. Creatures have their rises and their falls, and to us also there must be times when we need to renew our strength; and we shall renew it, for here the promise comes, 'They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.'" (Charles Spurgeon)
- b. Renewal from another
 - i. "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Benediction | 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.